RISC PC

Data Sheet 14
Versatile modular case design

April 1994

The Acorn Risc PC case is traditional in one sense - the original design concept is by Cambridge Product Design, which styled the legendary BBC microcomputer. But in all other ways the case for the Acorn Risc PC breaks new ground - in robustness, ease of access, expandability and security.

Robustness

Acorn computers have always been designed to take the rough treatment they get, but the new Risc PC is even better protected. The case is moulded entirely in Bayer Bayblend - a mix of tough ABS and polycarbonate - a high-impact-resistant plastic usually used in visors and riot shields. The case walls are 4 mm thick and extra strength is provided by 2 mm ribs. The inside is metal-sprayed to cut down electrical emissions.

Ease of access

The Acorn Risc PC supports an almost limitless range of configurations and upgrades - memory (VRAM and DRAM), disc drives (3.5" and 5.25" hard drives and CD-ROM drives), expansion cards, network cards (Ethernet and Econet) and even additional CPUs. Many users need to change their configuration frequently, so the computer needs to be easy to take apart and fit upgrades.

The Risc PC can be taken apart in seconds with no tools at all.

The case is of modular sandwich construction: top, centre-section and base (which holds the PCB).

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The top is held on with two glass-reinforced nylon twist-lock pins, and the centre-section by two more. You just unplug the drives and lift out the centre-section, revealing the PCB and power supply. A diagram of the case, with an extra centre-section, is shown overleaf.

Traditional fasteners are similarly absent from the disc drives, which are all held in place with spring clips, and the PCB clips into place too (although one screw is fitted to provide earth bonding).

Expandability

The modular centre-section of the case can hold one 3.5" and one 5.25" drive (two more on subsequent centre-sections) and up to two expansion cards. If you need more than this, you will be able to add another centre-section. And another, and another... up to a maximum of six. (You may need to upgrade the power supply if you will be drawing more than the maximum rated current.)

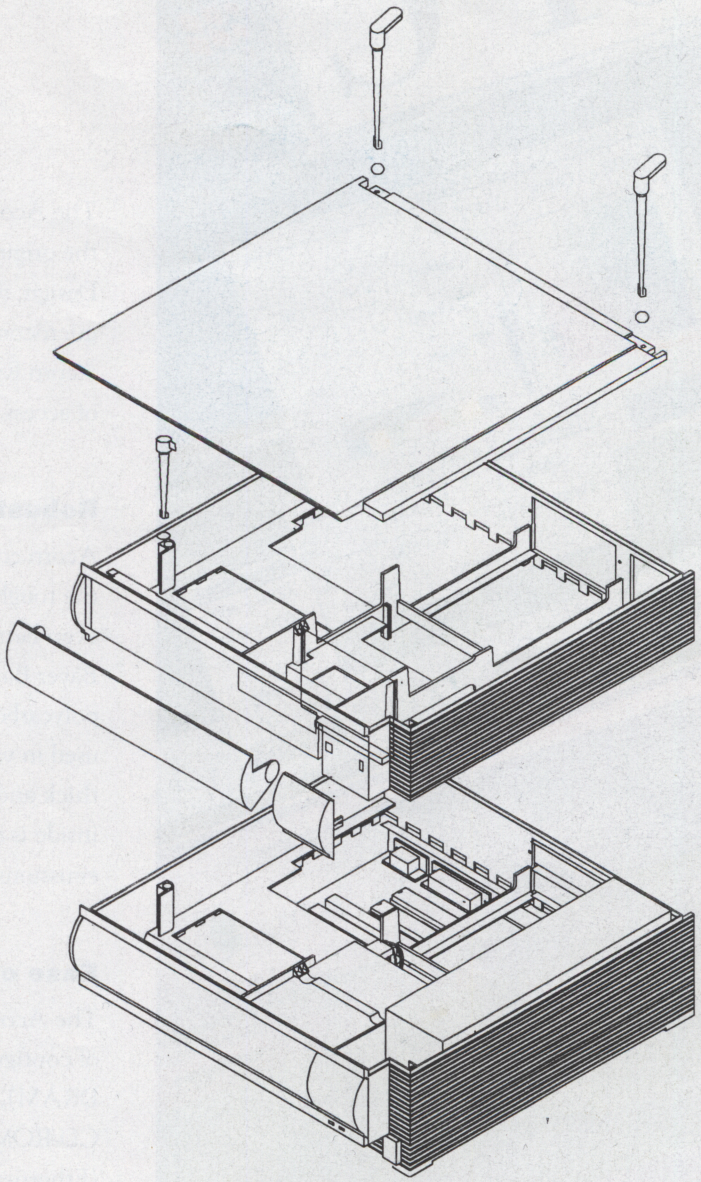
Security

We don't want to make it too easy for the wrong people to get inside your computer, so we have added padlock holes to the twistlock pins: if security is a problem, you can keep the top locked in position.

The case can be laid flat on your desk, with a monitor of up to 16 kg on top, or on its side in tower mode, whichever suits you best.

Dimensions

Height (standard)	117 mm
Height (two centre-sections)	182 mm
Height of each extra centre	65 mm
Width	355 mm
Depth	383.4 mm



United Kingdom
Acorn Computers Limited
Acorn House
Vision Park
Histon
Cambridge CB4 4AE

Telephone (0223) 254254
Int +44 223 254 254
Fax (0223) 254262

Australia
Acorn Computers
Australia Pty Ltd
29 Cromwell Street
Collingwood
Victoria 3066

Telephone: (03) 419 3033
Int +61 3419 3033
Fax (03) 419 2892

Australia
Acorn Computers
Australia Pty Ltd
Unit 7, 190 George Street
Parramatta
New South Wales 2150

Telephone (02) 891 6555
Int +61 2891 6555
Fax: (02) 635 9641

Germany
Acorn Computers GmbH
Jürgensplatz 36-38
40219 Düsseldorf

Telephone (0211) 308 494
Int +49 211 308 494
Fax (0211) 394386

New Zealand
Acorn Computers
New Zealand Ltd
1 Ngaire Avenue
PO Box 26 - 287
Epsom, Auckland 3

Telephone (09) 520 4049
Int +64 9520 4049
Fax: (09) 520 3321

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